



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 14-048: OAK CREEK LARGE WOOD REPLENISHMENT

Description of Proposal:

The Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Program (YKFP) proposal for Oak Creek has identified three stream reaches for wood replenishment and riparian enhancement (Attachment A). Reach 1 spans approximately one mile upstream from SR 12. Reach 1 has been impacted by fire, and exhibits significant down cutting and bank erosion. Reach 2 is a floodplain reach directly upstream of Reach 1. Oak Creek in Reach 2 is disconnected from its floodplain due to down cutting and the riparian area has been negatively impacted by dispersed recreation. Reach 3 is approximately 1 mile upstream from Reach 2 (confluence with Hoover Canyon). Oak Creek in Reach 3 is also disconnected from its floodplain due to down cutting and the riparian area has been negatively impacted by dispersed recreation.

The YKFP, in collaboration with WDFW and TNC have identified numerous areas of source wood (Attachment B) for wood replenishment in the three identified reaches. There are two small areas of overstocked timber adjacent to Reach 3 that will be low impact harvested by a Washington Conservation Crew (WCC). There are a number of slash piles and root wads up Road 216 that will be utilized. The off-site areas upstream were identified by WDFW/TNC as part of the larger forest health component. The off-site areas are road adjacent and can be selectively logged by the WCC and trailered down to the treatment reaches.

Total stream length proposed for wood replenishment is approximately 3 miles. A generous estimate would require 1,500 to 2,500 logs to be placed in the channel. After wood replenishment, disturbed banks would be re-vegetated, and some of the dispersed camping sites would be moved back from the stream bank with large boulders. All wood placements will be consistent with the Oregon State Guide to Placement of Wood, Boulders and Gravel for Habitat Restoration (2010). Post wood replenishment, live staking of disturbed/un-vegetated areas will occur.

The YKFP will be conducting a habitat survey of the proposed reaches in the spring of 2014 to establish a baseline, and monitor the project over time. The proposed project will span 3 to 5 years in order to monitor wood movement and habitat formation. This proposal is referred to as "Phase One" because it is possible that more intensive methods for recruiting LW into Oak Creek will be needed in the future. This phase will serve as a benchmark for future restoration actions.

This project is proposed by Yakama Nation and will be completed in consultation with their cultural resource staff. In addition WDFW's Archeologist will be consulted on the project. In the areas identified for tree removal a cultural survey was contracted and completed by Central Washington University as part of the Oak Creek Forest Restoration Project. Sites were identified and ground disturbing activities will be avoided in those area.

Proponent/Applicant: Yakama Nation through the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Program
Contact: John Marvin, YN/YKFP Habitat Biologist
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Oak Creek, tributary to the Tieton River, about 5 miles west of Naches, Yakima County, Washington: Township 14N, Range 16E, Sections 4, 5, and 6.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on July 26, 2014**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 11, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).